

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 229703

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 INT-05 DODE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, EAID, SOCI, NI

SUBJECT: COUNTRY FINANCED SERVICE,FEDERAL CAPITAL

REF: A) LAGOS 10545; B) STATE227614; C)STATE 227036; D)
STATE 178879

FOLLOWING ARE DEPARTMENT (AF/W) REPLIES KEYED TO NUMBERED
QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL A, AS WELL AS FRESH ATTEMPT SUM-
MARIZE WASHINGTON THINKING ON USG INVOLVEMENT IN CAPITAL
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

1. AF/W HAS PASSED INFO PARA ONE TO AID/W FOR TRANSMISSION
TO USGS TEAM DUE ARRIVE LAGOS SEPTEMBER 20 (REFTEL B) AS
WELL AS TO PROF. MITCHELL WHO DUE ARRIVE LAGOS MID-OCTOBER
(REFTEL C).

2. COUNTRY-FINANCED SERVICES: (A) SEE REFTEL C. AIDAC
MESSAGE FORTHCOMING. SEE PARA 3B BELOW. (B) SEE REFTEL B.
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PAGE 02 STATE 229703

(C) EMBASSY VIEWS PASSED TO USGS. ALFRED CHIDESTER, HEAD

OF USGS TEAM ASSURED DEPT TEAM WILL CONSULT WITH CAHILL/CLEW BEFORE HOLDING MEETINGS WITH CDA. FURTHERMORE, CHIDESTER CONFIRMS TEAM CAN ACCOMPLISH MISSION WITHOUT USE DMA MATERIALS ALTHOUGH HE OF OPINION CDA IS ALREADY AWARE EXISTENCE THESE MATERIALS.

3. PLANNING FIRMS: A) AMERICAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS COUNCIL (ACEC) REFUSED PROVIDE USDOC SHORT-LIST OF U.S. PLANNING FIRMS ON ETHICAL AND LEGAL GROUNDS, AS PER PARA NINE REFTEL D. HOWEVER, DURING JUNE VISIT, EBONG AND TEAM DID ATTEND ACEC COCKTAIL AND MET FOURTEEN REPS OF PLANNING CONSULTING FIRMS. USDOC AND DEPT ALSO UNABLE COMPLY WITH REQUEST FOR SHORT-LIST FOR SAME REASONS CITED ABOVE. DEPT REGRETS THIS CONCLUSION APPARENTLY NOT PASSED TO POST WHEN REACHED IN JULY.B) STATE/AID/USDOC POSITION IS THAT IN ADDITION TO REASONS PROVIDED PARA 3A, NIGERIAN FEDERAL CAPITAL PROJECT PLANNING NOT SUFFICIENTLY MATURE FOR ANY U.S. INSTITUTION TO MEET DIRECTLY EBONG'S REQUEST FOR SHORT-LIST OF PLANNING FIRMS. INSTEAD, USG ATTEMPTING EXPLORE AND EXPLOIT FMG INTEREST THROUGH COUNTRY FINANCED SERVICES MEDIUM, I.E. MITCHELL VISIT. PROF. MITCHELL HOPES, WITH CDA AND EMBASSY SUPPORT, TO ARRIVE AT UNDERSTANDING OF CDA'S EXISTING CAPABILITIES AND LONG TERM OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS, ENABLING HIM TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY ADVICE ON HOW CDA SHOULD PROCEED IN PROJECT PLANNING. TO PROVIDE SHORT-LIST OF US CONSULTANT/DESIGN FIRMS AT THIS TIME, EVEN IF WE WERE ABLE, WOULD SERVE TO UNDERMINE MITCHELL'S STATUS AS USG-SPONSORED PRE-PLANNING EXPERT WHO IS INTERESTED IN ULTIMATE SUCCESS CDA EFFORTS AS WELL AS IDENTIFYING RELEVANT US TECHNOLOGY WHERE APPROPRIATE. IN ANY EVENT MITCHELL IS INIMATELY IDENTIFIED WITH US TECHNIQUES AND US INDUSTRY. EVEN THOUGH HIS ADVICE TO CDA WILL BE WHAT HE THINKS IS BEST FOR CDA, STATE/AID/USDO ARE CONFIDENT THAT CDA RELIANCE ON MITCHELL'S ADVICE WILL RESULT IN COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FOR US FIRMS.

4. WILL ATTEMPT MEET CDA REQUEST LOCATE CANDIDATES OR ADVERTISE FOR ARCHITECT/PLANNER AND CHIEF ENGINEER THRU ACEC AND AID'S OFFICE OF ENGINEERING. HOWEVER, DEEM IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 229703

NECESSARY CDA FIRST PROVIDE GUIDELINES/JOB DESCRIPTION FOR BOTH POSITIONS. ALTERNATIVELY, RECOMMEND EMBASSY SUGGEST CDA OBTAIN ASSISTANCE OF NIGERIAN EMBASSY HERE OR NIGERIAN CONGEN IN NEW YORK IN PLACING ADS AND MAKING CONTACTS. LATTER APPROACH FAVORED AS WE VIEW CDA'S REQUEST IN PURVIEW NORMAL NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT COMMERCIAL WORK. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTS PASSED TO BECHTEL. BECHTEL TEAM WILL
ARRIVE OCTOBER 2 FOR MEETINGS WITH CDA OFFICIAL (SEPTTEL
FORTHCOMING).

6. REFTTEL A AND SOME PREVIOUS MESSAGES ARRIVING HERE WITH-
OUT E.O. TAGS AND SUBJECT LINES. HABIB

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